

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been editorially amended. Claim 22 has been canceled. Claims 1, 21, and 23-30 are pending in the application. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the remarks presented herein.

Applicants submit herewith a Certified English translation of priority document JP 2003-340921, thereby perfecting priority.

The above submission is provided to remove the Nakane et al. reference (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0265211) cited against claims 1, 21 and 23-30 in the June 4, 2009 Final Office Action.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Nakane et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0265211; hereinafter “Nakane”).

Claims 24, 25, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakane in view of Morishima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,082,094).

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakane in view of Morishima et al. and further in view of Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,778,205).

Claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakane in view of Morishima et al. and Anderson et al. and further in view of Eguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,473,154).

Nakane's U.S. filing date is September 21, 2004, and U.S. publication date is December 1, 2005. Concerning the present application, although the international filing date is September 28, 2004, the present application claims priority to JP 2003-340921 filed on September 30, 2003. As discussed above, priority has now been perfected. Because the priority document was filed before the filing date of Nakane, Nakane is removed as prior art. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1, 21, and 23-30 are traversed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Lenny R. Jiang
Registration No. 52,432

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 4, 2009